Everybody's Doing It

No one who has been assigned to the Foreign Service or who has attended government intelligence and counter-intelligence schools of any nation will doubt for a moment the purported statement of Russell A. Langelle, U. S. Embassy security official, Moscow, to the effect that the Russians are attempting to "penetrate" the American Embassy in Moscow (Associated Press, Washington, D.C., October 26, 1959)

What he didn't say and what the American people in general do not know, but should, is that the governments of every great power and most secondary ones are trying continuously to do the same thing.

This is standard operating procedure, otherwise known as "old hat" to the informed everywhere. Spying is an essential ingredient of the present cold war and is as old as the nation-state system itself. Governments not only spy upon their "opponents," but also upon their "friends." The "cloak and dagger" system is not something reserved for the "Mafia." It is one of the weapons in the arsenal of every nation and is in constant use. But like the "family skeleton," it is not discussed publicly or ever admitted officially.

Denial, in fact, is automatic in every foreign office everywhere. Never to my knowledge has any government ever admitted that these "dark "agents," even when caught red-handed, were acting under its instructions, or in its service, if possible to deny. This again is part of the state system. And no one should be disturbed by these reports unless he proposes to challenge the state system.

It is very important for the American people to note that the first casualty in any war, hot or cold, is truth, and always has been. It is not that the individuals engaged in international subversion are immoral themselves, but rather that the system itself is amoral.

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